Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1 - 31 (Previously canceled)

32. (Previously amended): A method for producing a recombinant yeast capable of utilizing a six carbon sugar to produce ascorbic acid (ASA) or an ascorbic acid (ASA) stereoisomer comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a yeast capable of utilizing 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KLG) as a carbon source to produce ASA or an ASA stereoisomer and

b) introducing at least either or both of i) a heterologous nucleic acid encoding an oxidative enzyme associated with the production of ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer in said yeast and ii) a heterologous nucleic acid encoding a reducing enzyme associated with the production of ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer in said yeast.

33. (Original): The method of Claim 32 wherein the yeast is a member of the Imperfect yeast group.

34. (Previously amended): The method of Claim 33 wherein the yeast is a member of the family Cryptococcaceae.

35. (Previously amended): The method of Claim 34 wherein the yeast is a member of *Candida* or *Cryptococcus*.

36. (Previously amended): The method of Claim 35 wherein the yeast is *Candida blankii*.

37. (Previously amended): The method of Claim 35 wherein the yeast is *Cryptococcus dimennae*.

38. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 32 wherein said yeast *Candida blankii* or *Cryptococcus dimennae* and said six carbon sugar comprises glucose, wherein said yeast comprises a heterologous polynucleotide encoding a glucose dehydrogenase and a heterologous polynucleotide encoding 2, 5 -diketo-L-gluconic acid (2,5-DKG) reductase.

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39. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 32 wherein said yeast is *Candida blankii* or *Cryptococcus dimennae* and said six carbon sugar comprises D-sorbitol, L-sorbose or L-sorbosone, wherein said yeast comprises at least one of a heterologous polynucleotide encoding a L-sorbose, a D-sorbitol dehydrogenase, an L-sorbosone dehydrogenase, or a galactose dehydrogenase

40. (Previously canceled)

41. (Withdrawn): The recombinant yeast produced according to the method of Claim 32.

42. (Withdrawn): The recombinant yeast of Claim 41, wherein said yeast is a *Candida blankii.*

43. (Withdrawn): The recombinant yeast of Claim 41, wherein said yeast is a *Cryptococcus dimennae.*

44. (Previously amended): A method for producing a recombinant yeast capable of utilizing a six carbon sugar to produce ascorbic acid (ASA) or an ascorbic acid (ASA) stereoisomer comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a yeast which is a member of *Candida* or *Cryptococcus* and which is capable of utilizing 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KLG) as a sole carbon source to produce ASA or an ASA stereoisomer;

b) introducing into the yeast a heterologous nucleic acid encoding i) an oxidative enzyme associated with the production of ASA or an ASA stereoisomer; ii) a reducing enzyme associated with the production of ASA or an ASA stereoisomer or both i) and ii); and

c) culturing the yeast in the presence of a six carbon sugar under conditions suitable for the production of ASA or an ASA stereoisomer.

45. (Previously amended): The method according to Claim 44, wherein the six carbon sugar is glucose, gulose, idose, galactose, mannose, sorbose or fructose.

46. (Previously amended): The method according to Claim 44 further comprising the step of recovering the ASA or ASA stereoisomer. .

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47. (Withdrawn): The recombinant yeast produced according to the method of Claim 44.

48. (New): A method for producing a recombinant yeast capable of utilizing a six carbon sugar to produce ascorbic acid (ASA) or an ascorbic acid (ASA) stereoisomer comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a yeast capable of utilizing 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KLG) as a sole carbon source to produce ASA or an ASA stereoisomer;

b) introducing into the yeast a heterologous nucleic acid encoding either or both of

i) a dehydrogenase enzyme associated with the production of ASA or an ASA stereoisomer selected from the group consisting of glucose dehydrogenase, a gluconic acid dehydrogenase, and a 2-keto-D-gluconic acid dehydrogenase (2-KDGDH), and

ii) a reductase enzyme associated with the production of ASA or an ASA stereoisomer selected from the group of 2,5-diketo-L-gluconic acid (2,5-DKG) reductase, 2,3-DKG diketo-L-gluconic acid reductase, 5-keto reductase, 2-keto reductase and 2-ketogulonate reductase, and

c) culturing the yeast in the presence of a six carbon sugar under conditions suitable for the production of ASA or an ASA stereoisomer.

49. (New): The method according to claim 48, wherein the dehydrogenase is glucose dehydrogenase

50. (New): The method according to claim 48, wherein the reductase is 2,5-DKG reductase.

51. (New): The method according to claim 48, wherein the six carbon sugar includes glucose, gulose, idose, galactose, mannose, sorbose and fructose.

52. (New): The method according to claim 48, wherein the recombinant yeast is a member of the family Cryptococcaceae.

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